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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/314,324	05/19/1999	WILLIAM JOSEPH ARMSTRONG	R0999-023	5010

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SCOTT A STINEBRUNER
WOOD HERRON & EVANS LLP
2700 CAREW TOWER
441 VINE STREET
CINCINNATI, OH 452022917

EXAMINER

DIXON, THOMAS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/314,324

Applicant(s)

ARMSTRONG ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas A. Dixon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 22
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 2 and 11 are cancelled.
2. Examiner disagrees with applicant's arguments of page 7 of the Appeal Brief regarding the inherency of an operating system in a logical partition. Partitioning of physical disks into logical partitions/devices is old and well known and such partitions do not require an operating system as part of each partition. The Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary defines partition as "a logically distinct portion of memory or a storage device that functions as though it were a physically separate unit. The MS-DOS operating system, for example can divide a hard disk into a primary partition and an extended DOS partition, each of which behaves as if it were physically distinct from the other. " Further, a logical device is defined to be "a device named by logic of a software system, regardless of physical relationship to the system. For example, a single floppy disk drive can simultaneously be, to the MS-DOS operating system, both logical drive A and drive B." From these definitions it can be seen that an operating system outside the logical partition recognizes the partition, but that the logical partition/device need not have an operating system as an inherent part.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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3. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duvvoori et al (6,201,438) in view of Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary.

As per Claim 1.

Duvvoori et al ('438) discloses :

a) tracking concurrent uses of a computer program across a plurality of logical partitions in the logically partitioned computer, see column 2, lines 25-39, column 4, line 56 – column 5, line 16, column 7, lines 41-53, and column 11, lines 18-54, using a partition manager accessible by the plurality of logical partitions, see column 6, lines 39-55, using a partition manager accessible by the plurality of logical partitions, see column 6, lines 29-55;

b) with a license manager resident in a first logical partition among the plurality of logical partitions, accessing the partition manager in response to a request to use the computer program in the first logical partition, see column 6, line 29 – column 7, line 53, and selectively denying a request to use the computer program in a first logical partition if permitting the requested use would violate a concurrent use software license associated with the computer program, see column 6, lines 58-60, and column 14, lines 25-56.

Duvvoori et al, does not explicitly teach operating systems in the partitions.

Duvvoori et al teaches creation of a virtual computer emulating a Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 operating system within a machine such as a Windows NT system for the purpose of giving the appearance of a 16bit machine within a 32bit machine for the benefit of detecting the launch of application for license management.

Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary teaches that an emulator is "hardware or software designed to cause one device, such as a computer to behave as if it were another, emulators are used in computer development as a means of enabling existing hardware and software to simulate the computer that is under development or for which software is being developed. Emulators are also used in communications as a means for making one computer or terminal seem to be the type of terminal that the other computer expects to encounter.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to use a virtual computer emulating a Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 operating system within a machine such as a Windows NT system for the purpose of giving the appearance of a 16bit machine within a 32bit machine for the benefit of detecting the launch of application for license management.

As per Claim 3.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses maintaining a global count of the number of concurrent uses of the computer program across the plurality of logical partitions, see column 6, line 55 – column 7, line 1 and column 13, lines 19-21.

As per Claim 4.

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Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses receiving the global count from the partition manager in response to the access thereto, and wherein selectively denying the request includes denying the request when the global count is at least equal to the maximum number of concurrent uses permitted by the concurrent use software license, see column 6, line 49 – column 7, line 1 and column 13, lines 19-36.

As per Claim 5.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses incrementing and decrementing, see column 13, lines 19-36.

As per Claim 6.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses each logical partition includes a local license manager, and accessing the partition manager in response to the request is performed by the local license manager in the first logical partition, see column 7, lines 26-40.

As per Claim 7.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses incrementing and decrementing and includes passing a program identifier, see column 13, lines 11-36.

As per Claim 8.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses determining whether permitting the requested use would violate the concurrent use software license, see column 13, lines 11-36.

As per Claim 9.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses tracking concurrent uses of a plurality of computer programs across the plurality of logical partitions, see column 13, lines 11-36.

As per Claim 10.

Duvvoori et al ('438) discloses :

a) a logically partitioned computer, see column 2, lines 25-39, column 4, line 56 – column 5, line 16, column 7, lines 41-53, and column 11, lines 18-54;

b) a first computer program configured to manage a concurrent use software license for a second program in the computer by tracking concurrent uses of a second program across the plurality of logical partitions, and selectively denying a request to use the second program in a first logical partition if permitting the requested use would violate a concurrent use software license, see column 14, lines 25-56;

i) a partition manager accessible by the plurality of logical partitions and configured to track concurrent uses of the second program across a plurality of logical partitions, see column 13, lines 11-36;

ii) a license manager configured to access the partition manager to request the use of the computer program in the first logical partition, see column 13, lines 11-36.

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Duvvoori et al, does not explicitly teach operating systems in the partitions.

Duvvoori et al teaches creation of a virtual computer emulating a Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 operating system within a machine such as a Windows NT system for the purpose of giving the appearance of a 16bit machine within a 32bit machine for the benefit of detecting the launch of application for license management.

Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary teaches that an emulator is "hardware or software designed to cause one device, such as a computer to behave as if it were another, emulators are used in computer development as a means of enabling existing hardware and software to simulate the computer that is under development or for which software is being developed. Emulators are also used in communications as a means for making one computer or terminal seem to be the type of terminal that the other computer expects to encounter.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to use a virtual computer emulating a Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 operating system within a machine such as a Windows NT system for the purpose of giving the appearance of a 16bit machine within a 32bit machine for the benefit of detecting the launch of application for license management.

As per Claim 12.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses maintaining a global count of the number of concurrent uses of the computer program across the plurality of logical partitions, see column 6, line 55 – column 7, line 1 and column 13, lines 19-21.

As per Claim 13.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses receiving the global count from the partition manager in response to the access thereto, and wherein selectively denying the request includes denying the request when the global count is at least equal to the maximum number of concurrent uses permitted by the concurrent use software license, see column 6, line 49 – column 7, line 1 and column 13, lines 19-36.

As per Claim 14.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses incrementing and decrementing, see column 13, lines 19-36.

As per Claim 15.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses each logical partition includes a local license manager, and accessing the partition manager in response to the request is performed by the local license manager in the first logical partition, see column 7, lines 26-40.

As per Claim 16.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses incrementing and decrementing and includes passing a program identifier, see column 13, lines 11-36.

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As per Claim 17.

Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses maintaining a global count of the number of concurrent uses of the computer program across the plurality of logical partitions, see column 6, line 55 – column 7, line 1 and column 13, lines 19-21.

As per Claim 18.

Duvvoori et al ('438) discloses:

- a) a plurality of logical partitions, see column 2, lines 25-39, column 4, line 56 – column 5, line 16, column 7, lines 41-53, and column 11, lines 18-54;
- b) a partition manager configured to track concurrent uses of a computer program across the plurality of logical partitions, see column 13, lines 11-36; and
- c) a plurality of license managers, each license manager resident in an associated logical partition among the plurality of logical partitions and each license manager configured to access the partition manager responsive to a request to use the computer program in the associated logical partition, see column 7, lines 25-40.

Duvvoori et al, does not explicitly teach operating systems in the partitions.

Duvvoori et al teaches creation of a virtual computer emulating a Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 operating system within a machine such as a Windows NT system for the purpose of giving the appearance of a 16bit machine within a 32bit machine for the benefit of detecting the launch of application for license management.

Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary teaches that an emulator is "hardware or software designed to cause one device, such as a computer to behave as if it were another, emulators are used in computer development as a means of enabling existing hardware and software to simulate the computer that is under development or for which software is being developed. Emulators are also used in communications as a means for making one computer or terminal seem to be the type of terminal that the other computer expects to encounter.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to use a virtual computer emulating a Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 operating system within a machine such as a Windows NT system for the purpose of giving the appearance of a 16bit machine within a 32bit machine for the benefit of detecting the launch of application for license management.

As per Claim 19.

- a) a first program configured to manage a concurrent use software license for a second program in a logically partitioned computer, see column 2, lines 25-39, column 4, line 56 – column 5, line 16, column 7, lines 41-53, and column 11, lines 18-54 and column 13, lines 11-36; including
 - a partition manager accessible by the plurality of logical partitions and configured to track concurrent uses of the second program across a plurality of logical partitions, see column 13, lines 11-36 and column 6, line 29 – column 7, line 53; and
 - a license manager configured to access the partition manager to request the use of the computer program in the first logical partition, and deny the request to use the

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second program if permitting the request would violate the concurrent use software license, see column 13, lines 11-36 and column 6, line 29 – column 7, line 53.

b) a signal bearing medium bearing the first program, see column 2, lines 9-12.

Duvvoori et al, does not explicitly teach operating systems in the partitions.

Duvvoori et al teaches creation of a virtual computer emulating a Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 operating system within a machine such as a Windows NT system for the purpose of giving the appearance of a 16bit machine within a 32bit machine for the benefit of detecting the launch of application for license management.

Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary teaches that an emulator is "hardware or software designed to cause one device, such as a computer to behave as if it were another, emulators are used in computer development as a means of enabling existing hardware and software to simulate the computer that is under development or for which software is being developed. Emulators are also used in communications as a means for making one computer or terminal seem to be the type of terminal that the other computer expects to encounter.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to use a virtual computer emulating a Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 operating system within a machine such as a Windows NT system for the purpose of giving the appearance of a 16bit machine within a 32bit machine for the benefit of detecting the launch of application for license management.

As per Claim 20.

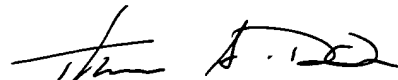
Duvvoori et al ('438) further discloses the signal bearing medium includes at least one of a recordable medium and a transmission type medium, see column 2, lines 9-12.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



Thomas A. Dixon
Examiner
Art Unit 3629

October 13, 2003